

Cultural Office to excel in its services to and relationship with the greater Denver area community. I look forward attending this event every year and to the continued and growing friendship and partnership between the United States and Taiwan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I mistakenly voted no on Roll Call No. 555 as I was distracted by reporters walking in to the Chamber due to the events in Las Vegas. I intended to vote yes on the Republican Study Committee Budget Substitute as I have for the previous six years.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON HONOR FLIGHT

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize 45 Oregon veterans who are visiting our nation's capital this Saturday, October 7, as part of the South Willamette Valley Honor Flight. These brave individuals risked their lives to protect and defend the United States and are now here to visit those monuments and memorials they helped inspire.

The veterans on this honor flight are as follows:

World War II—Bud Barnes, Army; Don Copenhagen, Army; Bud Garrett, Navy; Ed Hemmingson, Merchant Marines; Wally High, Navy; Arlie Holte, Army; Bob LeBlanc, Navy; Ray Maggard, Navy; Carl Mason, Navy; Ralph Morse, Marine Corps; Curt Wiese, Navy; Stan Wilson, Marine Corps.

Korean War—Larry Adair, Army; Gene Amundson, Army; Paulie Bokn, Army; Jim Broughton, Navy; Stan Clark, Air Force; Joe Couture, Air Force; John Dobson, Navy; Carl Gripenburg, Army; Marshall Heflin, Air Force; Don Hinkle, Navy; Terry Howard, Army; William Macauley, Air Force; Dorrance Mattson, Air Force; Ed Stelling, Army; Ida Stemple, Navy; Charlie Stoakes, Army; Ed Sullivan, Air Force; Jay Surgeon, Navy; Ron Swanson, Air Force; Maurice Thorne, Air Force; Les Warner, Army.

Vietnam War—Kham Bounnavong, Army; Paul Fiegner, Army; Joe Grace, Army; Ken Henderson, Army; Mike Kisinger, Navy; Dick Mann, Army; Tim Mulhern, Marine Corps; Bob Pieper, Air Force; Ralph Wendt, Army; Bob Whitehead, Navy.

It is my privilege to include their names in the RECORD and my sincere hope that you'll join me in recognizing them for their extraordinary service.

TAIWAN 106TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the founding of Taiwan, also known as the Republic of China, which occurred following the Xinhai Revolution to overthrow the last imperial Chinese dynasty.

Taiwan has been nothing short of an economic miracle. Increased investment in infrastructure, education, and communications during the latter half of the 20th Century spurred rapid economic growth and elevated Taiwan to prominence as one of the "Four Asian Tigers." Taiwan is home to Foxconn, one of the largest electronics manufacturers in the world, as well as other large technology companies such as ASUS, Pegatron, and Quanta Computer.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a strong, albeit unofficial, relationship, which is maintained by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT). On the commercial side, Taiwan is the U.S.'s 9th largest trading partner and the U.S. is Taiwan's second largest trading partner. In 2016, U.S. trade with Taiwan totaled an estimated \$84.9 billion. Cultural relations have also prospered in recent years. Travel from Taiwan to the U.S. has increased by 50 percent since Taiwan became a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012.

My home state of Georgia also has a strong trade relationship with Taiwan. In 2013, the Georgia General Assembly passed a resolution supporting a free trade agreement between Taiwan and the U.S. Last year, Georgia's exports to Taiwan generated over \$420 million. Georgia's position as a global logistics and transportation hub has attracted investment from the Taiwanese auto parts industry. There are also a number of Georgia companies spanning across multiple industries that have operations in Taiwan.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the people of Taiwan on their economic development in the last few decades. The hard work and ingenuity of the Taiwanese people are testaments to their economic success and flourishing democracy. I look forward to continued cooperation and goodwill between our two countries in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SHREVEPORT

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise and recognize the 100th anniversary of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Shreveport, La. For over a century, this congregation has blessed our community by spreading the love of God and continuing the tradition of giving back to one's neighbors.

In the beginning of the 20th century, some of the first Greek immigrants settled in Shreve-

port, La., and recognized the need for greater unity among the small community of orthodox families. They then founded a congregation that would grow to what we now know as the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The name, "Saint George," was chosen in honor of the Saint George Church of New Ephesus in Asia Minor, which was destroyed during the Turko-Grecian struggle in 1917. Religious liberty is a core principle in the United States. While fleeing religious persecution, many Greeks found their new home in Northwest Louisiana.

Today, the church is considered the heart of the region's beloved Greek community and is distinguished by its rich and colorful artwork and architecture depicting insights of orthodoxy. The congregation of St. George has a long history of generosity and compassion and includes some of our closest personal friends. The congregation has hosted countless charitable events to support its three major philanthropic organizations: the Ladies Philoptochos Society, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the Daughters of Penelope. For over 60 years, the Philoptochos have held an annual pastry sale to raise funds for numerous charitable organizations, providing aid to anyone who may need it.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Northwest Louisiana, I am privileged to recognize the St. George Greek Orthodox Church and celebrate over 100 years of their dedication to the betterment of our community. I, along with my wife, Kelly, pray the Lord continues to bless this congregation and their important ministries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 4th, on Roll Call votes 551, 552, 553, and 554. I was not present because I was tending to my community in Las Vegas, in the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting in United States history. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call vote 551, NAY on Roll Call vote 552, NAY on Roll Call vote 553, and NAY on roll call vote 554.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027:

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I would like to include in the RECORD letters from Social Security Works, AFSCME, SEIU, and the Coalition on Human Needs.

SOCIAL SECURITY WORKS,
October 4, 2017.

Hon. CEDRIC RICHMOND,
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE RICHMOND: We are writing to express our support for the FY18 Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Alternative Budget. Your budget outlines responsible priorities, including strengthening Social Security benefits, and demonstrates the CBC's commitment to the best interests of the American people.

The CBC budget alternative is the complete opposite of the cruel legislative proposals contained in the Republican FY18 House Budget Resolution. While the Republican budget proposes cutting Social Security benefits and undermining Medicare and Medicaid, the CBC Alternative Budget works to improve Social Security and, more generally, our economic security, for all of us, including seniors, people with disabilities, children, and other vulnerable Americans.

The Congressional Black Caucus clearly understands that Social Security is a solution to a number of challenges facing the nation, including our looming retirement income crisis. Most workers—especially African-Americans—have seen their wages stagnate. They need insurance against the loss of wages in the event of death disability or old age, which Social Security provides, as opposed to more retirement income savings, which are a far less effective solution. Social Security is the primary retirement income for 72 percent of African-American seniors; we must work to protect Social Security benefits from any cuts, and work to expand its modest benefits.

The recommendation of the CBC Alternative Budget to adjust the cost of living calculations by using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) would be a great start to strengthening our Social Security system. The current formula for the Social Security cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) is slowly eroding the value of Social Security's already modest benefits. Seniors and people with disabilities deserve a yearly raise that keeps pace with their actual costs of living, which are ever increasing due to the cost of pharmaceutical drugs and medical expenses.

Thank you for introducing the CBC budget alternative. The American people deserve a budget that fully funds vital programs, and not one that makes cuts to pay for tax handouts for wealthy Americans. We look forward to working with you during the formation of next year's CBC budget alternative to strengthen the proposal even further.

Sincerely,

NANCY J. ALTMAN,
President.

ALEX LAWSON,
Executive Director.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, October 4, 2017.

Hon. CEDRIC RICHMOND,
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I strongly endorse the alternative budget resolution proposed by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). The CBC budget represents the true needs of our nation and working families by supporting health care needs, basic living standards, nutritional assistance, job training, higher education and building better economic opportunities for everyone.

The budget decisions made by Congress each year are vital to ensuring that the

economy is strong and that our communities are safe and prosperous. Unfortunately, H. Con. Res. 71, the budget approved by the House Budget Committee, promotes the same misguided, inequitable priorities as the budget proposed by President Trump. The GOP budget sets woefully inadequate spending levels for critical public services and slashes \$5.8 trillion over 10 years from non-defense discretionary programs and critical entitlement programs. It hurts vital human needs to significantly boost defense spending and provide massive tax giveaways to wealthy individuals and corporations.

The CBC budget sets a better course by investing in public services that all Americans rely on, preserving and improving the Affordable Care Act, cancelling budget sequestration cuts, investing in infrastructure to create jobs and strengthen communities, investing in education from the cradle through college, targeting investments to eradicate poverty, improving retirement security, strengthening the right to vote and creating a fair tax code to meet our nation's needs.

The CBC budget embraces American families and promotes job growth and economic prosperity. I strongly urge support for the CBC budget.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,
Director of Federal Government Affairs.

SEIU,

Washington, DC, October 4, 2017.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 2 million members of the Service Employees International Union ("SEIU"), I write in support of the Congressional Black Caucus's Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 ("Alternative Budget"). The Alternative Budget would make America's tax system fairer, rebuild the nation's infrastructure, and invest in our communities and children through programs designed to lift millions out of poverty.

The House Republican budget (H. Con. Res. 71) would cut programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security in order the finance tax giveaways to the wealthy and big corporations. The CBC's Alternative Budget would require the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share, the Alternative Budget would also invest \$1 trillion into a robust infrastructure program that would accelerate the economic recovery and revitalize communities across the nation.

Furthermore, the Alternative Budget would invest in community-focused programs that are designed to lift millions out of poverty. These investments include restoring funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), expanding access to affordable housing, increasing access to affordable and quality education, and increasing funding for job training programs. Each of these provisions would focus on rebuilding the middle class and creating an economy that improves the lives of American workers.

The CBC's Alternative Budget, along with the Congressional Progressive Caucus's "The People's Budget," are better paths forward for America's working families than H. Con. Res. 71. If you have any questions, please reach out to John Foti.

Sincerely,

JOHN GRAY,
Legislative Director.

COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2017.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I strongly urge you to vote no on H. Con. Res. 71, the proposed FY 2018 Budget Resolution, and to vote for the substitute budgets advanced by the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congress-

sional Black Caucus, and the Democratic alternative budget resolution.

The Coalition on Human Needs is an alliance made up of human service providers, faith organizations, policy experts, labor, civil rights, and other advocates for meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable people. Our members understand that the economic security of millions of American families depends on building on the progress we've made in health coverage, jobs, basic living standards, and ensuring that our children are well-prepared for productive lives. But the majority's proposed budget does not build—it breaks apart our engines of progress. It will make our nation weaker for decades to come.

The most recent survey data on poverty in the U.S. shows the biggest two-year decline since the late 1960's. Refundable tax credits for working families, SNAP/food stamps and housing subsidies have lifted multi-millions of people out of poverty. The decline in the proportion of our population without health insurance continued its decline in 2016, down to 8.8 percent. More people are working, and in general, low-and moderate-income households have finally started to make income gains.

The budget advanced by the House Budget Committee would be a dangerous backwards plunge, stripping trillions of dollars from programs that work to reduce poverty and create security and opportunity. Medicaid, Medicare, working family tax credits, nutrition assistance, education and housing assistance: these are just some of the services the budget would massively cut. The budget takes trillions in funding that supports economic security and progress and hands it to the wealthy and corporations in the form of enormous tax cuts.

The primary goal of H. Con. Res. 71 is to allow huge tax cuts to be enacted with only a simple majority in the Senate. These tax cuts are claimed to be a critical element in increasing economic growth enough to make the tax cuts deficit neutral. Reputable economists are skeptical that the proposed tax cuts would boost the economy to the 2.6 percent average growth projected in the budget and acknowledge that tax cuts to corporations and the rich deepen the deficit. History supports this: the economy grew and unemployment declined more during the Clinton tax increase years than during the Bush era tax cuts. And the Kansas experience with tax cuts is cautionary: revenues plummeted, with the tax take in 2016 \$570 million lower than in 2013, even after counting increases enacted in sales and cigarette taxes. The economic growth that did occur from cutting taxes was estimated to bring in about \$30 million, leaving the state very deeply in the hole. The state legislature has recently reversed course, unwilling to slash education budgets as much as the revenue hole would have forced. They saw that they were weakening their state. Congress should not inflict the same dangerous lesson on the entire nation.

We urge you to reject H. Con. Res. 71 because of its central choice: paying for tax cuts that overwhelmingly favor the rich and corporations with cuts to essential services. Our nation faces major challenges: reducing disproportionate poverty among children and helping children and young adults to advance in education so they can meet the challenges in our economic future, protecting seniors in their retirement, and rebuilding communities. Both the emergency needs of communities devastated by natural disasters and the similarly urgent threats from opioids and other epidemics, decaying infrastructure and inadequate public health and consumer protections demand a vigorous federal response. Instead of making these investments, the House budget would cripple

the federal capacity to respond by slashing domestic appropriations by 44 percent compared with FY 2010 levels over the next decade and making similarly extreme cuts in health care, nutrition, income assistance for seniors, people with disabilities, and working families. In addition to trillions of dollars in cuts and structural constraints to basic mandatory programs, the budget would fast-track \$203 billion in cuts to domestic programs over the next ten years through reconciliation rules. Cuts like these would recklessly weaken us; they are self-inflicted wounds.

The proposed tax cuts will worsen inequality and reward businesses that park their income offshore. Instead, Congress should insist that corporations and the rich pay their fair share. Please vote against weakening America, and instead protect and expand investments as called for in the budgets proposed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the House Budget Committee Democrats' substitute. These three constructive alternatives deserve your yes vote.

Sincerely yours,

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL ALBERT PIKE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to require the removal of a statue of Confederate General Albert Pike, which is currently located on federal land near Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia. This statue was authorized by Congress in 1898, and was paid for by both federal and private funds—the Freemasons, of which Pike was a member, donated the majority of the money needed to build and install the statue in 1901. I oppose tearing down Confederate statues, because I believe they should be moved to more appropriate settings, like museums, to avoid erasing an important part of history from which Americans must continue to learn. However, Pike was a Confederate general who served dishonorably and was forced to resign in disgrace. Soldiers under his command were found to have mutilated the bodies of Union soldiers, and he was ultimately imprisoned after his fellow officers reported that he had been misappropriating funds. Adding to the dishonor of taking up arms against the United States, Pike dishonored even his Confederate military service. He certainly has no claim to be memorialized in the nation's capital. Even those who do not want Confederate statues removed will have to justify according Pike any honor considering his history.

After meeting with the Freemasons, I believe that the best course of action is to remove the statue and find a more appropriate place for it. The Freemasons themselves have said they "will support an action . . . to remove the statue forthwith so that it shall not serve as a source of contention or strife for the residents of our community." The Mayor of the District of Columbia and the D.C. Council also support the removal of the statue.

My bill clarifies that no federal funds will be used to take the Pike statue down. I urge my

colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH OF MARAMURES ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 25th anniversary of St. Joseph of Maramures Romanian Orthodox Church. St. Joseph's, the only Romanian Orthodox Church in Luzerne County, has grown from humble beginnings to become a beacon of faith in our community.

In 1992, a small group of Romanians located in Hazleton, Pennsylvania decided to form a mission. With nothing other than faith and a desire to succeed, their mission became a reality.

On April 19, 1992, with the blessing of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America and His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, St. Joseph's first Divine Liturgy was officiated by Rev. Fr. Onisie Morar. Over the next year, the Mission held its services in various locations, including Emil and Dorina Horga's property in Hazleton, where the first Resurrection Service was officiated, as well as St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Freeland. By the grace of God and the kindness of others, such as Fr. Lawrence Baigger, all of the church's services were officiated for its parishioners during this time.

While services were held at St. Michael's, the newly formed Mission began to organize and strengthen. The Mission Council and Ladies Auxiliaries Organization were formed and with them, so did the ability to obtain a personal place of worship. In 1993, the Mission Council purchased the United Methodist Church in Hazleton, adopting the name of Palm Sunday Romanian Church. When the mortgage was paid in 1999, the parish changed its name to St. Joseph of Maramures Romanian Orthodox Church.

Since then, through the dedication of its parishioners, the parish has formed a strong community within itself, as well as with others in the surrounding areas. With the guidance of Fr. Cristian Preda, the parish has continued to preserve the traditions of the Orthodox Christian faith, touching many lives in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing St. Joseph of Maramures Romanian Orthodox Church as it celebrates its 25th anniversary, and wishing its parishioners all the best in the years to come.

A HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, October 10th is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day. I would like to take

this opportunity now to offer my early best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

As my colleagues are aware, Taiwan is a close friend, as well as security and trade partner of the United States. Accordingly, the United States has declared its support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations where its membership is not possible. In my home state of Iowa, we are enthusiastic to build on our already strong trade ties. In 2016, Iowa's exports to Taiwan reached \$153.87 million, making Taiwan Iowa's 5th largest export market in Asia.

Iowa and every state in the nation would benefit from the signing of a free trade agreement between Taiwan and the U.S., which would eliminate tariffs on most products and increase Taiwanese demand and Iowa exports. Though a small country with a population of 23 million, Taiwan has the potential to become a strong export market for Iowa and the U.S. Taiwan is a major importer of U.S. agriculture goods. Other sectors such as Iowa's strong wind energy sector have potential for bilateral cooperation as well.

Mr. Speaker, again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day. And I take this opportunity to echo the words of Barry Goldwater when he said, "I have great affection for the Chinese people, their culture, their skills, and their potential."

RECOGNIZING DANA FERREIRA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the commitment and dedication of my Senior Field Representative, Dana Ferreira. Dana served 15 years as an essential member of my team.

Dana graduated from Hartnell College in 1989 with her Associate of Arts in General Studies. After graduating, she became a licensed Insurance Agent for Marini Insurance Agency. Six years later, she joined my team while I worked for the California State Senate. In 2010, I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and she stayed by my side as District Scheduler and later as a Senior Field Representative. Dana has been an integral member of my staff and instrumental in the successes of my district office.

Dana has established solid and lasting relationships in California's 10th District as a pillar in our community. From Mayors to community leaders, she has entered the lives of many through her professionalism and personality. Since 2003, Dana has been profoundly involved in the Rotary Club, beginning in Salinas and then in Modesto. She selflessly volunteers her time for many organizations and causes and has been recognized for many worthy achievements and accomplishments.

One of Dana's many preferred pastimes is attending concerts; she especially likes seeing her favorite band, Tesla. On Saturdays, you can catch Dana cheering on the Oklahoma Sooners football team with her two cats, Milo and Luca.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending my good friend, Dana Ferreira, for her many years of service, devotion, and outstanding contributions to our community.